

June 20, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Vroom! Cross-country "All Rise America!" motorcycle relay for drug courts is subject of new *Court Stories* video

[Press release](#)

The Detroit News: Michigan high court removes Wayne County Judge Ross Adams from bench

"The Michigan Supreme Court ordered the removal Wednesday of Wayne County Circuit Judge Deborah Ross Adams for judicial misconduct. In a 5-2 decision, the court rejected the Michigan Judicial Tenure Commission's recommendation for a 180-day suspension for Ross Adams without pay and ruled that she be removed instead. The court also ordered her to pay a fine of nearly \$8,500 to the commission."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Supreme Court orders Wayne judge off bench for lying under oath

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Michigan Supreme Court axes judge for misconduct

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit, WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit and WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit.

Detroit Free Press: Troubled Detroit court looking for other cuts to avert layoffs

"Layoff notices have gone out to 80 employees who work at 36th District Court in Detroit in union and nonunion positions, but the majority of the layoffs could be averted with other cost-saving methods before they take effect in early July. Among the ideas proposed for cutting costs: 10% wage concessions, unpaid holidays and changes to health care, according to court and union officials."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: 80 employees of troubled 36th District Court receive layoff notices

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Judge digs in to cut costs at Detroit court

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Daily News/Iron Mountain and the Daily Press/Escanaba.

Detroit Free Press: Charges revived in medical marijuana case

"The Michigan Supreme Court has reinstated charges against a medical marijuana user who provided pot to another user without charge. There is no dispute that Tony Green provided less than 2 1/2 ounces of marijuana to Al Thornton in western Michigan's Barry County in 2011. Both were qualified to use the drug."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: Charges revived in medical marijuana case

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Duggan's withdrawal gives Napoleon 'clear shot' at Detroit mayor's seat

"The race for the city's top job was turned upside down Wednesday when Mike Duggan abandoned his campaign amid a losing legal battle over city residency requirements. The wrench thrown into the Aug. 6 primary now opens the door for Wayne County Sheriff Benny Napoleon to seize control of the race for the mayor's seat."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

The Detroit News: OUR EDITORIALS: Duggan should have pursued appeal

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Laura Berman: Even at the end, Duggan full of surprises

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Mike Duggan out of mayoral race; Benny Napoleon 'in the driver's seat'

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Stateside: Mike Duggan decides not to appeal in court, drops out of mayor's race

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: In Detroit, a front-runner for mayor self-destructs

[Full story](#)

Michigan Radio/Ann Arbor: Jack Lessenberry: Commentary: Fairness and Mike Duggan

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Duggan out of race, says no more appeals in Detroit mayoral ballot fight

[Full story](#)

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Mike Duggan: I only blame myself; Duggan ruled off Detroit mayoral ballot for disputed City Charter violation

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Big pay day possible for ex-Holland clerk in tax flap

"A West Michigan city could owe hundreds of thousands of dollars after the state appeals court ruled in favor of a former clerk who was fired over a property tax exemption on her home. Jenifer French was fired as Holland city clerk in 2006 after officials said she illegally claimed a homestead exemption on her Holland home while her husband took a similar exemption on a house in Douglas."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Big pay day possible for fired western Michigan clerk

[Full story](#)

Associated Press: Big pay day possible for ex-city clerk in tax flap

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: Holland mayor blasts 'absurd' ruling that calls for fired city clerk to reclaim her job

[Full story](#)

The Holland Sentinel: UPDATED: Holland must rehire clerk in a court ruling mayor calls 'absurd'

[Full story](#)

Daily Press & Argus: Court Docket: Arguments slated in synthetic pot case

"The Michigan Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments July 9 to determine whether an attorney can represent two Livingston County women charged with illegally selling synthetic marijuana. Defense attorney Timothy Corr argues it is his clients' constitutional right to have the attorney of their choosing, but both Livingston County District Judge L. Suzanne Geddis and Circuit Judge Michael P. Hatty have ruled it's a conflict of interest for Corr to represent both defendants."

[Full story](#)

Flint Journal: Legal dispute between former Clayton Township leaders continues after appeals ruling

"Former Clayton Township supervisor acted outside of his authority as township supervisor when he discharged former township police chief Charles Melki in 2009, according to a ruling issued by the Michigan Court of Appeals. The ruling was issued Wednesday, June 19, in response to a lawsuit Melki filed against the township, Beatty and former trustee Chuck Shinouskis over his termination."

[Full story](#)

Grand Rapids Press: West Michigan medical marijuana case stood stagnant for four years while state courts clarified law

"One of the alleged side effects of marijuana is that for those who partake, time can be distorted. That may also apply to marijuana prosecutions - at least in the case of Benjamin Curtis Walburg. Four years ago, Ottawa County Sheriff's Department investigators, acting on a tip, say they found 25 marijuana plants in Walburg's Grand Haven Township home."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: MJA seeks 'judicial excellence' nominations

"The Michigan Judges Association is currently accepting nominations for the Hilda Gage Judicial Excellence Award. The award recognizes Court of Appeals or circuit judges, current or former, who have shown exemplary service by excelling in trial and docket management, legal scholarship and contributions to the profession and the community."

[Full story](#)

The MiLW Blog: Jury's note lets defense counsel get away with trial diatribe against plaintiff

"Stacy Ann Yost got banged up in a traffic crash, which left her sporting a scar near one of her eyes. Soon after the accident, she contacted a lawyer. Within a month, a third-party no-fault suit was filed. Plaintiff's quick consultation with a lawyer figured prominently in defense counsel's trial strategy, which apparently was that plaintiff's claim should be denied because she didn't sleep on her rights."

[Full story](#)

MLive.com: Indigent defense: Michigan lawmakers OK plan to add state oversight, fund local improvements

"A plan to improve Michigan's oft-criticized indigent defense system is headed to the desk of Gov. Rick Snyder. The state Senate and House on Wednesday gave final approval to bipartisan bills that, if signed into law, will create the Michigan Indigent Defense Commission."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon County's indigent defense reform passes first milestone

[Full story](#)

SBM Blog: Indigent Criminal Defense Reform Legislation On Way To Governor's Desk For Signing

[Full story](#)

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Lawmakers vote to fix indigent defense

[Full story](#)

WKAR News/East Lansing: Public Defense Overhaul Clears State Legislature, Goes To Snyder's Desk

[Full story](#)

The Oakland Press: Program for seniors to understand probate court process will be held in Auburn Hills

"The Citizens Alliance for the Oakland County Probate and Circuit Courts will conduct a free seminar titled 'Removing the Mysteries of Probate Court' at the Auburn Hills Senior Services Department. This program is designed to enlighten and educate senior citizens and their families so that they may make informed decisions regarding their estate planning and understand the probate process."

[Full story](#)